

# Blues apply to join Football League

## Wycombe drop a bombshell

**WYCOMBE** Wanderers dropped a football bombshell over the Easter holiday by applying to join the Football League next season.

This shock announcement, which will send reverberations around the non-league world, means that for the first time in their history Wycombe are aiming to join the elite.

Indeed it is also the first time an Isthmian League side has ever applied to join the Football League — and this brave decision could set a trend for the future.

Up until now, it has been assumed that only clubs from the Alliance Premier League could apply, but according to Wycombe secretary John Goldsworthy this is not the case.

"There is no tie-up between the Football League and any other league. There's nothing to stop any club applying," he said.

Mr Goldsworthy explained why, after 97 years, the club had finally got around to applying to join.

### Remote chance

"The Isthmian League is really not going anywhere and we wanted a change of scenery. The Alliance, we considered would not be an option, was discussed about the future, we decided to apply for the Football League."

Their chances of gaining entry to the Football League, must be remote to say the least.

Before their application can go any further, Wycombe's ground and facilities must be examined by special Football League inspectors to see if they match up to the League's required standard.

This must be a major hurdle because Wycombe's Loakes Park ground is renowned for its slope and no other club in the Football League has a pitch like it.

The dressing room accommodation is good, but certain

Story by MICHAEL KNOX

improvements might have to be made to the press area.

There must be severe doubts as to whether Wycombe would pass this inspection, although Mr Goldsworthy defends the pitch by saying: "If you can't play on that surface, you can't play anywhere."

Even if they clear that hurdle, the chances of getting enough votes at the annual meeting must be remote. Even Altrincham, with

their exceptional non-league record, failed to beat struggling Rochdale in a vote last year. There are no such obvious candidates to be thrown out of the League this time.

Mr Goldsworthy agrees the chances of election are slim. "Teams very rarely get in first time. But unless you try, you never know. But at least we will know where we stand, if we fail."

Wycombe's application

has received support from the Isthmian League, who can only benefit. If nothing else it shows that teams do not have to enter the Alliance to apply for the Football League.

A spokesman for the Football League said: "We shall treat Wycombe's application no differently from any other. We will write to them to ask for certain information and inspect their ground.

"If it is satisfactory then their application will go before the annual meeting. Why should we treat it any other way?"

## Jacobs set for recall

**WYCOMBE** defender George Borg has been suspended for two weeks and so misses the last two matches in their late bid for the Berger Isthmian League championship.

Borg, booked ten times this season, therefore cannot play at Leatherhead tomorrow (Saturday) or at Bromley on May 2. He would have missed the Bromley game, in any case, as he is on holiday in the United States.

His left back position against Leatherhead seems set to be taken by Jimmy Jacobs, a mid-field player whose versatility has probably deprived him of several first team games. Skipper Paul Birdseye will stay at right back.

Reserve goalkeeper Chris Way is standing by, after Gary Lester reported injured with a back injury on Tuesday night. Way, himself, is recovering from a groin strain but should be fit to take over if necessary.

Otherwise Wanderers will be able to field the same side that battled back from behind to win 3-2 at Croydon on Saturday. Terry Scott scored twice and Mick Hollfield netted the other.

That victory allied to Slough's shock home defeat by Hendon really opened up the Premier Division championship race.

Mike Keen, who fears the threat from Enfield, said: "We'll just have to plug on by winning on Saturday and seeing what happens. But I'll be disappointed if we win our last two games and still finish outside the top two."

### BERGER Isthmian League PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wycombe	40	22	8	10	73	45	74
Slough	39	20	13	6	62	31	73
Enfield	39	20	11	8	74	41	71
Leatherhead	40	19	10	11	78	56	67
Yeovil	38	17	11	8	72	54	62
Sutton	41	17	11	13	79	65	62
Dagenham	41	17	11	13	74	67	61
Hendon	41	17	10	14	62	57	61
Harlow	39	16	10	13	55	45	58
Staines	41	15	9	17	59	58	54
Bromley	41	15	9	18	63	66	54
Hayes	38	16	8	16	39	47	54
Tooting	41	15	7	19	48	52	52
Hitchin	39	14	8	17	63	60	50
Dulwich	41	13	11	17	61	68	50
*Barking	43	13	12	17	58	72	49
Croydon	39	11	15	13	47	48	48
Carshalton	38	13	7	18	53	72	46
Harlow	40	10	15	15	49	62	45
W'ston	39	12	7	20	44	74	43
Boreham Wd	40	10	11	9	44	67	41
Woking	39	10	6	23	37	65	33

\* 2 pts deducted, † 3 pts deducted.

## Reserves draw

### Wycombe Reserves 2, Fleet Reserves 2

WYCOME Reserves looked to have done enough to take both points when they went into a 2-1 lead in the 87th minute on Saturday, but Fleet equalised.

WYCOME: C. Way, T. Lee, J. Jacobs, I. Rundle, A. Vircaus, S. Dexter, G. Maranall, M. Richardson, A. Hunt, G. Toll, N. Shrimpton. Sub: K. Stanbridge (not used).

### SUBURBAN LEAGUE NORTH DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Harlow	29	22	5	2	80	26	49
Farnborough	28	17	7	4	69	27	41
Hounslow	30	18	5	7	51	32	41
Wycombe	31	18	4	9	82	40	40
Slough	28	17	5	6	78	21	39
Wealdstone	27	18	4	7	52	36	38
Staines	31	17	6	8	64	27	40
Fleet	32	15	6	11	47	43	36
Wembly	30	13	8	8	57	39	35
Hillingdon	30	14	8	10	83	37	34
Fleet	31	9	4	18	41	70	22
Chertsey	29	10	2	17	39	78	22
Egham	31	8	9	16	42	67	21
Southall	29	8	6	17	28	60	18
Addiscombe	27	8	4	17	40	40	16
Camberley	32	5	2	25	31	96	12
Corinthian	29	0	2	27	4	117	2